

FINAL TONE OF LIBERTY BELL?

What Is Believed to Be Its Last Ringing Is Said to Have Recently Taken Place at Philadelphia.

What may prove to be the last ringing of the historic Liberty bell took place in Independence hall at Philadelphia recently.

It was decided to transmit the tones of the bell across the country to San Francisco over the recently completed transcontinental telephone line, partly fulfilling in a literal sense the prophetic words cast on the bell, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof." The bell was struck three times with mallets at intervals of five seconds. By an arrangement of three very sensitive transmitters, which were suspended beneath it on rubber bands, so as to exclude all foreign vibration, the tones were caught and clearly heard over the telephone wires on the Pacific coast. At the same time a photographic record was made of the notes so as to preserve them for posterity.

This is the first time that the great bell has been sounded since it was cracked in 1835 while tolling the death of John Marshall, the first chief justice of the United States Supreme court. The reason that it may never again be rung is that a new crack, more serious than the old one, has developed in it.

It has been found that the bell is afflicted with the "disease of metal." This is partly responsible for the appearance of the latest fissure and has made it necessary to support its weight on padded props in order to relieve the stress which has gradually been pulling it apart.

The new crack is now plainly visible, while only a short time ago it was microscopic. It begins at the upper part of the original fracture, extending from the letter "P" in the "Philadelphia," diagonally a quarter of the way around the circumference, to the letter "Y" in "Liberty," near the top. It is believed that the new crack might not have occurred had the bell

been allowed to remain at rest after it was first broken. It has, however, been shipped on different occasions to New Orleans, Chicago, Atlanta, Charleston, Boston and St. Louis. That it is actually suffering from a malady known as the "disease of metal," is the description of its ailment in the technical phraseology of the metallurgist, and is not a popular figure of speech. The reason for this distemper is to be found in the history of the bell's casting.

It was originally made by Thomas Lester at London, in 1752, and shipped to Philadelphia. When it was hung to try the sound it was cracked by the clapper. At first it was intended to return it to England, but subsequently two workmen, Pass and Stow, neither of whom was experienced in the art, undertook the recasting in Philadelphia. Obviously the bronze was too brittle, and in order to toughen it they added approximately ten per cent of copper to the original metal. When the bell was later rung it was found that too much copper had been used, and to the chagrin of everyone, the tone was destroyed. The same men again undertook the work, and this time are supposed to have added tin to restore the tone. The third bell was accepted, but too much tin had been used, and the tones were so highly resonant that it was seldom rung.—Popular Mechanics.

It is very hard to convince a writer who is paid by the word that brevity is the soul of wit.

HOUSECLEANOGRAMS

Husbands flee when dustpan pur sueth.

What your wife yanks out you must tack down.

A dinner in town is worth ten of the set tubs.

When your wife asks you to clean the rug—beat it!

No woman is a Lillian Russell when she is cleaning house.

Behold, how great a mess a little soap and water maketh!

He who reneges and runs away will live till next housecleaning day!

No man steppeth on a cake of soap and getteth up and praiseth the Lord!

EVADED CAPTURE BY BRITISH

Quick Wit of American Patriot Saved Himself and Family When in Dire Peril.

There is an incident in the life of George Read worthy of mention in connection with these men who were martyrs to the Declaration. Fortunately Read suffered no real privation at the hands of the British, a fact due, however, solely to his presence of mind. When President McKinley, presiding officer of Delaware commonwealth, was made a prisoner, soon after the battle of Brandywine, it was necessary for George Read to take charge, he then being vice-president of that colony. He was in Philadelphia at the time of the president's capture and to return home entailed considerable danger.

The enemy occupied the west bank of the Delaware river and Mr. Read had to take the New Jersey shore, run the risk of crossing the river and elude, if possible, the vigilance of the enemy's ships, which were strung along the whole distance. The 13th of October, 1777, Mr. Read reached Salem, N. J., where he obtained a boat for the purpose of conveying himself and family across the river.

At the place where he undertook the crossing, the river was about five miles wide. Almost in view of the British ships he had about reached the Delaware coast when he was discovered, for his boat had grounded just too far from shore to make it practicable to land his family. Unable to go on or leave the boat they were forced to wait while a ship's boat came up to them. Mr. Read's wife had not been idle, however, and he devised a plan which he and his wife immediately put into practice. They destroyed all traces of identification of their baggage, a feat made possible by the time required for the other boat's approach.

When the boat came alongside he politely informed them of his plight, and added that he was a country gentleman returning home from a pleasure excursion he had made with his family. The presence of his mother, wife and children added weight to this story. The commander of the English boat was only a coxswain, his companions common sailors. There was nothing suspicious about the party.

So, taking pity upon a family thus stranded but a short distance from their destination, the English boat's

crew obligingly assisted them to land, helped to get the baggage on shore and, after receiving thanks for their kind assistance, returned to their ship. Mr. Read continued his journey, the end of which was the colony's governmental headquarters, where he assumed the role of chief executive until the release of the president was secured.

STATUE OF MINUTEMAN



WITH A NUTTY FLAVOR

It's a long road that has no busted automobile.

Kicking without knocking is possible. There's the mule.

It silence really was golden deaf and dumb folks would all be millionaires.

We only see the colors in the sunset and in the rainbow that are in our souls.

It takes something more than bricks, wallpaper, oriental rugs and a porte cochere to make a home.

A hypocrite is a fat man who goes shingling to his work in a stuffy office downtown on a broiling hot day.

A Chunk of Ice

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